

REGISTER OF CLASSIFICATION DECISIONS

Date of entry in Register:	25 May 2001
Name of applicant/court:	Comptroller of Customs
Applicant to the Labelling Body:	Not Applicable
Title of Publication:	The Essential Psychedelic Guide
Other Known Titles:	Not Stated
Director:	Not Applicable
Producer:	Not Applicable
Publisher:	Panther Press
Author:	D.M. Turner
Format:	Book
Country of Origin:	USA
Language:	English

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Components of film originally examined: Not Applicable.

Feature:	Running time:
Trailers:	Running time:
	Total Running time:

Excision/Alteration: Not Applicable.

Reason(s) for Excision:

Not Applicable.

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Classification Decision:

Objectionable except if the availability of the publication is restricted to persons who have attained the age of 18 years.

Display Conditions:

That when the publication is on display, the classification given to the publication must be shown on the publication or any package in which the publication is kept

Descriptive Note:

Not Applicable.

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Direction to issue a label has been given on: Not Applicable.

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SUMMARY OF THE REASONS FOR DECISION:

The book entitled *The Essential Psychedelic Guide* is classified as:
Objectionable except if the availability of the publication is restricted to persons who have attained the age of 18 years.

The book provides information relating to the effects of taking various psychedelic drugs, particularly the perceptual and cognitive effects as well as general information, including safety factors, about the drugs. The author's political and philosophical views about the benefits of such drugs to the individual and to society are also apparent throughout the book. The availability of books such as this one is problematic given that a good proportion of its subject matter revolves around the use of controlled psychedelic drugs, and the possession and use of these drugs constitutes offences under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1975.

However, while the book does describe the author's experiences of the effects of different doses of different drugs and provides information about the drugs, it falls short of being instructional. It does not instruct the reader how to manufacture or produce such drugs or realistically tell the reader how to obtain them. It also contains a significant amount of philosophical and political content concerning the author's views of the potential benefits to the individual and society and whether such drugs should be decriminalised. In this regard the book can be said to have an "honest purpose" and can be distinguished from other more instructional drug related publications.

The book is therefore not considered to promote or encourage criminal acts to such a degree or extent that its availability is likely to be injurious to the public good. However, given the level of social concern that is currently present in New Zealand society over the availability of illegal drugs, particularly amongst young persons, the availability of the book is likely to be injurious to the public good unless it is restricted to an adult audience. An audience younger than this may not have sufficient maturity to recognise the potential negative consequences associated with drug use and may be influenced to experiment with illegal drugs.

The provisions of the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990 have been taken into account in determining this classification. This classification represents the minimum interference with the freedom of expression consistent with Parliament's intention to prevent likely injury to the public good.

OFLC Ref: 100219